Handing over of Kargil airport to Defence Ministry

654. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to hand over Kargil Airport to the Defence Ministry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether civilian traffic will be put to inconvenience by this decision; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to strategic location of Kargil near the Indo-Pak border, the operational control of Kargil airport has been handed over to the Ministry of Defence (Indian Air Force) by Airports Authority of India (AAI).

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Indian Air Force (IAF) have decided to start their flights for civilian passengers in their aircraft from Jammu and Srinagar to Kargil, for which AAI has extended all necessary assistance.

Assured return of US-64

655. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UTI is going to inherit US-64;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has assured return of Rs. 12 for the first 5000 Units and Rs. 10/- per Unit for holding over 5000 units after May, 2003;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the sick US-64 Unit's current market value is hovering at Rs. 6.20;

(d) if so, the amount of money Government would have to pay to compensate for the loss of US-64; and

(e) the steps being taken to enhance the value of US-64?